

State Historic Preservation Review Board
Lansing, Michigan
September 16, 2005

President Evans called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members present:

Scott Beld, Lynn Evans, Richard Harms, Alison Hoagland, Elisabeth Knibbe, Carolyn Loeb, Jennifer Radcliff

Members absent:

Janese Chapman

Staff Present:

Dean Anderson, Laura Ashlee, Robert Christensen, Sandra Clark, Brian Conway, Bryan Lijewski, Robbert McKay

Members of the Public Present:

Scott Gordon, concerning Burdick-South Historic District
Ben Berton, concerning Burdick-South Historic District
Steve Bakker, concerning Ithaca Downtown Historic District
Sharon Ferraro, concerning Burdick-South Historic District
Pam O'Connor, concerning Burdick-South Historic District
Melissa Milton-Pung, concerning Rosedale Park Historic District
Dave Sanford, concerning Burdick-South Historic District
Michael Mooney, concerning Rosedale Park Historic District
Kristine Kidorf, concerning Capital Bank Tower

Approval of Agenda:

Hoagland moved approval. Harms seconded. Approved 7-0.

Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2005:

Harms moved approval. Hoagland seconded. Approved 7-0.

Appointment of Nominating Committee for Officers:

Evans appointed herself as nominating committee.

Staff Reports:

Conway reported on:

- Reappointment to the board of Richard Harms and Jennifer Radcliff
- Push to amend the state local historic district enabling act in the wake of the Madison-Lenox demolition as part of the Michigan Historic Preservation Network's (MHPN) legislative agenda. Key items to be addressed are legal standing for duly authorized preservation organizations (local and statewide organizations) when local government doesn't act,

allowance for any agency of government to initiate proceedings to enforce act, or local ordinance, requirement for review board action on appeals to take place prior to any circuit court rulings, clarification that the local historic districts act and local historic district ordinances take precedence over other acts and ordinances, and raising fines from \$5,000 to \$50,000 for non-compliance, and to \$150,000 in the case of demolition, with the money raised to be put in a trust fund controlled by the local historic district commission. Courts would also be allowed to bar a local government from receiving or using state funds at the site for five years.

- Nick Bozen is working with the Governor's office, which seems supportive.
- Proposed legislation to increase the state credits, to establish a state environmental review process, and to provide legislative authorization for the State Historic Preservation Office and to declare historic preservation to be a public policy.
- The second edition of *Traveling Through Time*, the state historical marker book, was released in mid-June.
- Amy Arnold contributed to a Smart Growth issue of the Michigan Association of Planners *Bulletin*.
- 6 applications, totaling \$146,000, received for Michigan Lighthouse Assistance Program funds.

Clark reported on:

- Governor plans to veto legislation that removes sunset clause on all specialty license plates, but does not include a provision limiting future specialty plates.
- The Governor has indicated she will sign legislation lifting the sunset clauses provided future specialty plates are prohibited.
- The Cultural Economic Development Strategy for History, Arts & Libraries being developed under Conway's direction will be presented to the governor in Nov. Clark is working with Ed Mahoney at MSU on a computer model known as CEDOT – Cultural Economic Development On-line Tool.
- Department-wide interest in heritage tourism.
- Budget situation.

Conway continued his report:

- Steve Belko has left as project manager for the Michigan Lighthouse Project. Martha MacFarlane-Faes will serve as interim manager until funding is secured to fill position.
- Negotiating with MDOT to obtain SAFE-T LOU? money (formerly called TEA-21) to put together a project to assist lighthouses for the next three years.
- The transfers to new owners of 15 offshore lighthouses are caught up in bottomland issues that are preventing the transfers. A meeting on Oct. 19 between representatives of the National Park Service, state Attorney General's office, General Services Administration, and SHPO has not resolved the issues.
- Detour Reef Light Preservation Society has been approved by NPS to take ownership of the Detour Reef Light, but that transfer cannot occur until bottomlands issues have been resolved. Detour will then set the model for the remaining offshore lights.
- State tax credit law went through an amendment process. There was a proposal to remove the provision requiring a historic district ordinance in communities with a population of greater than 5,000. A substitute bill was introduced restricting the amendment to communities under

an 1889 law that allowed for summer resorts and assembly associations. There are 12 communities that were established under that law. SHPO will be undertaking an effort to identify unknown resorts and work with them to obtain historic designation.

- HR 3159, a federal tax credit law amendment, has been introduced. It would modify the adjusted basis rules in a way that would facilitate expanded use of the historic preservation tax credits.
- SHPO and MHPN will hold a fall workshop on historic preservation basics on Nov. 4.
- Main Street program going strong, with 11 Main Street communities in all, including the newest ones, Ishpeming, Grand Haven, Midland, and Howell.

Anderson reported on:

- Archaeology Day (Oct. 1) and Month events around the state.
- Grand opening of the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary visitor center Sept. 17.
- Retrieval of over 200 boxes of artifacts, notes, etc., stored in a storage shed in Williamston and in danger of being discarded when a consultant got behind in rent on the space. Contact will be made with appropriate universities and agencies to find appropriate repositories. Some will remain in our collections.

National Register Nominations:

Site: Ithaca Downtown Historic District, Ithaca, Gratiot County

Presented by: Christensen

Moved for approval: Knibbe

Seconded: Harms

Vote: 7-0

Criteria: A, B, C

Level of significance: Local

Hoagland asked why the two non-contributing buildings on the edge of the proposed district were included in the nomination.

Christensen said that there may be something salvageable underneath the current façade coverings, and that the district may be expanded in the future.

Radcliff stated that it is important to have properties that will be reviewed in a local historic district to be included in the district, and that it is sometimes difficult for historic district commissioners to determine where the district stops and where it begins when district lines are unclear.

Knibbe commented that even though some buildings have been altered they still contribute to the historical significance of the district, and that logical boundaries make sense.

Site: B & C Grocery Building, Royal Oak, Oakland County

Presented by: Christensen

Moved for approval:

Seconded:

Vote:

Criteria: C

Level of significance: Local

Radcliff stated that this is a great looking building.
Conway asked if the current building was intact under the façade.
Christensen stated that there were a few pieces that needed to be replaced.

Site: Rosedale Park Historic District, Detroit, Wayne County

Presented by: Melissa Milton-Pung

Moved for approval: Hoagland

Seconded: Radcliff

Vote: 7-0

Criteria:

Level of significance:

Discussion: Loeb asked whether Stoepel Park is a historic feature of the neighborhood. Milton-Pung felt it is not tied closely historically to the neighborhood.

Site: Burdick-South Historic District, Kalamazoo, Kalamazoo County

Presented by: Sharon Ferraro

Moved for approval: Harms

Seconded: Knibbe

Vote: 7-0

Criteria: A, C

Level of significance: Local

Discussion:

Site: Capital Bank Tower, Lansing, Ingham County

Presented by: Kristine Kidorf

Moved for approval: Hoagland

Seconded: Loeb

Vote: 7-0

Criteria:

Level of significance:

Discussion: Harms asked whether there are other Olds-related properties left in Lansing. Kidorf answered that there was very little left.

Historic District Study Committee Reports:

Bryan Lijewski presented the reports.

Charlevoix Train Depot Historic District, Charlevoix. The board had no additional comments.

Allen School Historic District, Jackson. Harms spoke to the importance of context information in relation to schools.

Boys Club/Youth Building Historic District, Battle Creek. The board had no additional comments.

Warren-Ives Historic District, Big Rapids. The board had no additional comments.

John T. and Elizabeth Woodhouse House Historic District, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Carl E. Schmidt and Alice Candler Schmidt House Historic District, Grosse Pointe Farms.

Several board members commented on the need for more information on the property's landscape.

Modification of Wattles House Historic District Boundary, Troy.
Park Avenue Hotel Historic District, Detroit.
Eddystone Hotel Historic District, Detroit.
General Motors Research Laboratory/Argonaut Building Historic District, Detroit.

Dates of Next Meetings: Feb. 10 [since changed to Feb. 24], May 19, Sept. 15.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.